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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE 7 March 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT:

Offshore Island Situation

General

The offshore island area remained quiet over the weekend. Nationalist officials have been denying reports that they intend to evacuate some of the islands the Nationalists now hold.

The Nationalists report a movement of 33 Chinese Communist "warships" from Chekiang south to the Loyuan Bay area, just north of the Matsus, on 6 March. Twelve of the vessels are reported to be large landing craft. MAAG believes this movement may represent a transfer of troops from Chekiang to Fukien.

Matsus

More Chinese Communist junks, which may have been scouting islands in the Matsu area, were observed by the Nationalists on 4 March. About 20 were seen near Wuchiu, midway between Matsu and Quemoy, and another 20 were fired on by Nationalist vessels near Kaoteng, northernmost of the three main islands of the Matsu group.

Quemoys

Limited artillery fire from the Amoy area has continued.

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